

632

\$130

F1-267

**FISH PASSAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY:
AUBURN RAVINE-COON CREEK WATERSHED**

JUL 28 1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- a. **Applicant:** Placer County on behalf of the Auburn Ravine CRMP Committee
- b. **Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives**

This project is a fish passage feasibility study in the Auburn Ravine-Coon Creek watershed. This watershed is unique in that the channels are used as water supply conduits to major agricultural users in western Placer County and southern Sutter County. Given this water management operations scenario, the basin contains a minimum of 40-50 miles of habitat suitable for juvenile anadromous fish rearing. The watershed currently supports steelhead, spring-run and fall-run chinook salmon, and splittail. The objective of this study is to evaluate water management operations with respect to adult spawning migration and juvenile emigration and develop, as appropriate, conceptual alternatives to solve any fish passage problems that may be discovered.

- c. **Approach/Tasks/Schedule**

The County anticipates that it will hire qualified consulting firm(s) to accomplish the tasks outlined.

- d. **Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED**

This project addresses a number of CALFED and CVPIA goals directly. These streams are not identified in any of the restoration documents prepared, yet their potential exceeds many of the glamour streams because of the way in which water is managed. These streams are close to urban development, but still maintain potential as major anadromous producers. Providing fish passage, on a consistent basis, could add an additional 10 miles of historical habitat. The affects of other diversions are unknown at this time.

- e. **Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts**

The County request \$130,000 in Category III funds to complete this project. No third party impacts are anticipated since this is a feasibility study.

- f. **Applicant Qualifications**

The CRMP Committee including specialists from Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service will work with the Resource Conservation District and County staff to select qualified experts to perform this study. A current list of CRMP Committee member is attached. (See Attachment 2)

- g. **Monitoring and Data Evaluation**

Not applicable to this project, although the information in the final report would expedite any CALFED or CVPIA funded efforts to implement any solutions identified in this project.

- h. **Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED objectives**

This project has local support as evidenced by the support of the Auburn Ravine CRMP Committee asking the County Board of Supervisors to submit this proposal on their behalf. This project is fully compatible with all CALFED objectives.

Fish Passage Feasibility Study - Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek

1997 Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs
Proposal, section II: Title Page

FISH PASSAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY: AUBURN RAVINE-COON CREEK WATERSHED

Submitted by Placer County
on behalf of

The Auburn Ravine Comprehensive Resources Management Planning Committee

contacts:

Fred Yeager, Planning Director (Program Management)
11414 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603
(916) 889-7479
(916) 889-7499 - fax

Holly Heinzen, Principal Management Analyst (Administrative)
175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603
(916) 889-4042
(916) 889-4023 - fax
e-mail:hheinzen@placer.ca.gov

Rich Gresham, Resource Conservation District Manager (Technical & Financial)
251 Auburn Ravine Road, Suite 20, Auburn, CA 95603
(916) 885-3046
(916) 823-5504 - fax

County Government - exempt
Fed: 94-6000527
State: 69-0930630

Participants and Collaborators:

Placer County
The Auburn Ravine CRMP Committee
RFP Project Group III: Services

Fish Passage Feasibility Study - Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

a. Project Description and Approach

This project is intended to evaluate and develop conceptual alternatives to potential fish passage problems that may exist at manmade diversion structures and natural barriers that occur in the Auburn Ravine-Coon Creek watershed. A technical team, under the direction and guidance of the CRMP committee, will be selected, with expertise in fish passage design, hydrological modeling, and fishery biology to conduct the assessments. Seven known diversion dams exist on Auburn Ravine and may inhibit upstream passage for adult steelhead and both spring-run and fall-run chinook salmon into the system. The Coon Creek drainage has an unknown number of potential sites where upstream passage could be a problem. The approach to this project is to involve local interests and appropriate state and federal agencies in assessing existing diversions and evaluation of potential improvements for fish passage.

The technical team will meet with the owners of the diversions and the agency representatives concurrently, to assess the current water management operations with regard to timing of spawning migrations into the system and juvenile emigration. Site visits would allow an assessment of the physical works and development of conceptual alternatives if a problem was identified. Reports would be prepared, with some limited drawings and planning level engineering cost estimates, to allow programs such as the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program or CVPIA's various programs to assess projects for possible implementation. The technical team would coordinate with members of the CRMP committee, representing a broad range of interests, to work towards mutually acceptable solutions.

b. Location and/or Geographic Boundaries of Project

These watersheds are located in western Placer County, north of the American River and west of the City of Auburn. They enter the Sacramento River as a combined discharge near Verona. (See Attachment 1 - map)

c. Expected benefit(s)

Primary stressors, species and/or habitats addressed: Alteration of Flows and Other Effects of Water Management, Population Management; steelhead, spring-run chinook, fall-run chinook, splittail, and possibly delta smelt.

Completion of this series of feasibility studies would provide state and federal agencies with sufficient information to decide if major anadromous fish passage problems existed in these two watersheds. These streams are unique in that the stream channels serve as conduits to supply water to agricultural areas in the western part of Placer County and in southern Sutter County. Since this use occurs during the summer months, these streams have an estimated 40-50 miles of rearing habitat suitable for anadromous fish. Currently steelhead and fall-run chinook are found in the system. Spring-run chinook have been stocked into the system by the Department of Fish and Game for over 10 years, but surveys to determine the success of adult returns and/or presence of juveniles have not been completed. These streams offer an unparalleled opportunity over other streams in northern California because they do not suffer from low water flows during critical rearing time periods.

Fish Passage Feasibility Study - Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek

These streams present an opportunity to increase anadromous fish production since neither of these watersheds have been identified in any of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan or CVPIA documents prepared to date. In addition, splittail have been documented to use the lower end of the watershed by the Department of Fish and Game. Interviews with local fishermen indicated an exact knowledge of when, where, and how to catch splittail many miles upstream of the Sacramento River confluence. Delta smelt may use the lower end of the drainage near the Sacramento River confluence.

d. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

The Auburn Ravine-Coon Creek watershed has largely been ignored with respect to its potential to produce anadromous fish. These watersheds have excellent potential to produce anadromous fish because the channels are used to supply water to agricultural uses in the rice growing areas of the Sacramento River floodplain. As a result, these streams have an abundant and cold stream flow all summer long. This is counter to most other anadromous fish streams in the Sacramento River basin which suffer from irrigation withdrawals high in the watershed. This different condition makes the Auburn Ravine-Coon Creek watershed an ideal candidate to increase anadromous fish production. However, it is believed that at least one diversion inhibits steelhead and salmon passage for approximately 10 miles under all but the highest winter flow conditions. No formal assessment of any of the diversion structures in the watershed has been undertaken. Implementation of this proposal will provide resource agencies with a formal assessment or potential fish passage problems, a conceptual solution to those problems identified, and planning level cost estimates to solve the problem should the resource agencies and diversion owner choose to do so.

The technical approach is relatively simple. Two highly qualified professionals will meet with the respective diversion owners and appropriate regulatory agency staff. A site visit will be made to examine the needs and discuss on the ground alternative solutions. A final report will present conceptual alternatives and planning level engineering cost estimates as appropriate.

e. Proposed Scope of Work

The following scope of work assumes a contract would be awarded to the consulting team in October 1997:

- Task 1: Select technical team
November 1997
- Task 2: Evaluate stream conditions along Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek
Dec 97 - June 98
- Task 3: Contact diversion owners in the watershed and obtain any drawings of their diversion sites and discuss their water management operations to assess if their operations occur during time periods when steelhead and/or salmon could be migrating or emigrating from the system.
December 1997

Fish Passage Feasibility Study - Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek

- Task 4: Contact agency representatives and conduct a site visit evaluate potential solutions to those diversion whose operations overlap anadromous fish migration timing.
Dec 97 - March 98
- Task 5: Prepare a summary of preliminary findings and provide working schematics of potential projects to address problems area for fish passage.
March 98 - June 98
- Task 6: Conduct a stakeholder workshop on preliminary findings.
July 1998
- Task 7: Prepare draft final report and circulate to stakeholders and public for comments.
Aug - Sept 98
- Task 8: Prepare final report.
November 1998

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

This element is not applicable to this project

g. Implementability

This project is immediately implementable. Since it is a feasibility study, no permitting is required. The Auburn Ravine CRMP committee includes a wide range of public and private agencies and individuals, including stakeholders, who support development of baseline information relevant to development of improvements for fish passage in Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek. The CRMP committee members are committed to this project and have agreed to cooperate and work jointly to complete this study.

Fish Passage Feasibility Study - Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek

V. COSTS AND SCHEDULE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROJECT

a. Budget Costs

Detailed budget costs are presented in Table 1 below. Since Coon Creek has an unknown number of potential sites, the budget below is based on 10 diversions needing a detailed assessment. Any additional diversions or sites needing detailed evaluation may require additional funds, depending on negotiations with the individual contractors.

Table 1. ESTIMATED COSTS FOR A FISH PASSAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY:
AUBURN RAVINE-COON CREEK WATERSHED

BUDGET COMPONENT	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Task 7	Task 8
Direct Labor (Hours)								
Direct Salary and Benefits								
Overhead Labor (General and Administrative Fee)		1,500	900	3,000	7,200	900	3,000	3,000
Service Contracts		10,000	6,000	20,000	48,000	6,000	20,000	20,000
Ongoing Input and Review by CRMP Members		1,273	1,273	1,272	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273
Material and Acquisition Contracts								
Miscellaneous and Other Direct Costs								
Total Project Cost		12,773	8,173	24,273	55,473	8,173	24,273	24,273
In-Kind Contribution		(1,273)	(1,273)	(1,273)	(1,273)	(1,273)	(1,273)	(1,273)
TOTAL CATEGORY III FUNDING REQUESTED		11,500	6,900	23,000	55,200	6,900	23,000	23,000

*** TOTAL CATEGORY FUNDING REQUESTED FOR ALL TASKS = \$130,000 ***

b. Schedule Milestones

The proposed schedule is included in the Scope of Work presented above. The County would most probably contract for this work with a reputable and experienced consulting firm(s). Therefore, billing would occur monthly, based on time and materials.

c. Third Party Impacts

There should be no third party impacts since this is a feasibility study only.

Fish Passage Feasibility Study - Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek

V. APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

The CRMP Committee including specialist from Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service will work with the Resource Conservation District and County staff to select qualified experts to perform this study. A current list of CRMP Committee Members is attached. The individuals responsible for implementation are listed below.

Fred Yeager, Planning Director, Placer County - Program Management

Mr. Yeager has a B.A. degree from the University of California in Biology and Geography. Mr. Yeager has administered dozens of contracts for the preparation of environmental analysis, resource plans, community block grants and a variety of other planning related projects.

Richard Gresham, Manager Placer County Resource Conservation District - Administrative/Technical

Mr. Gresham has been the manager of the Placer County RCD since 1978. He has a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Fresno State. The Soil and Water Conservation Society and the International Erosion Control Association had granted him use of the professional designation "Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control". Under the direction of Mr. Gresham, the RCD has received, managed and successfully completed numerous state and federal grants for natural resource and conservation related projects and programs. The RCD has an on-going agreement with Placer County to provide for planning and implementation of conservation and natural resource programs and assistance with general and community plans.

Clifford Heitz, District Conservationist, Auburn Field Office, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Technical

Mr. Heitz has a B.S. in Forest Management and 27 years of experience working with the Forest Service and with the NRCS. He has worked in six locations throughout California.

Fish Passage Feasibility Study - Auburn Ravine and Coon Creek

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions specified are agreeable and will be complied with the applicant. Attached is the Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement for Placer County.

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMPANY NAME

PLACER COUNTY

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

OFFICIAL'S NAME

GLORIA COURTTS

DATE EXECUTED

JULY 25, 1997

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF
PLACER

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

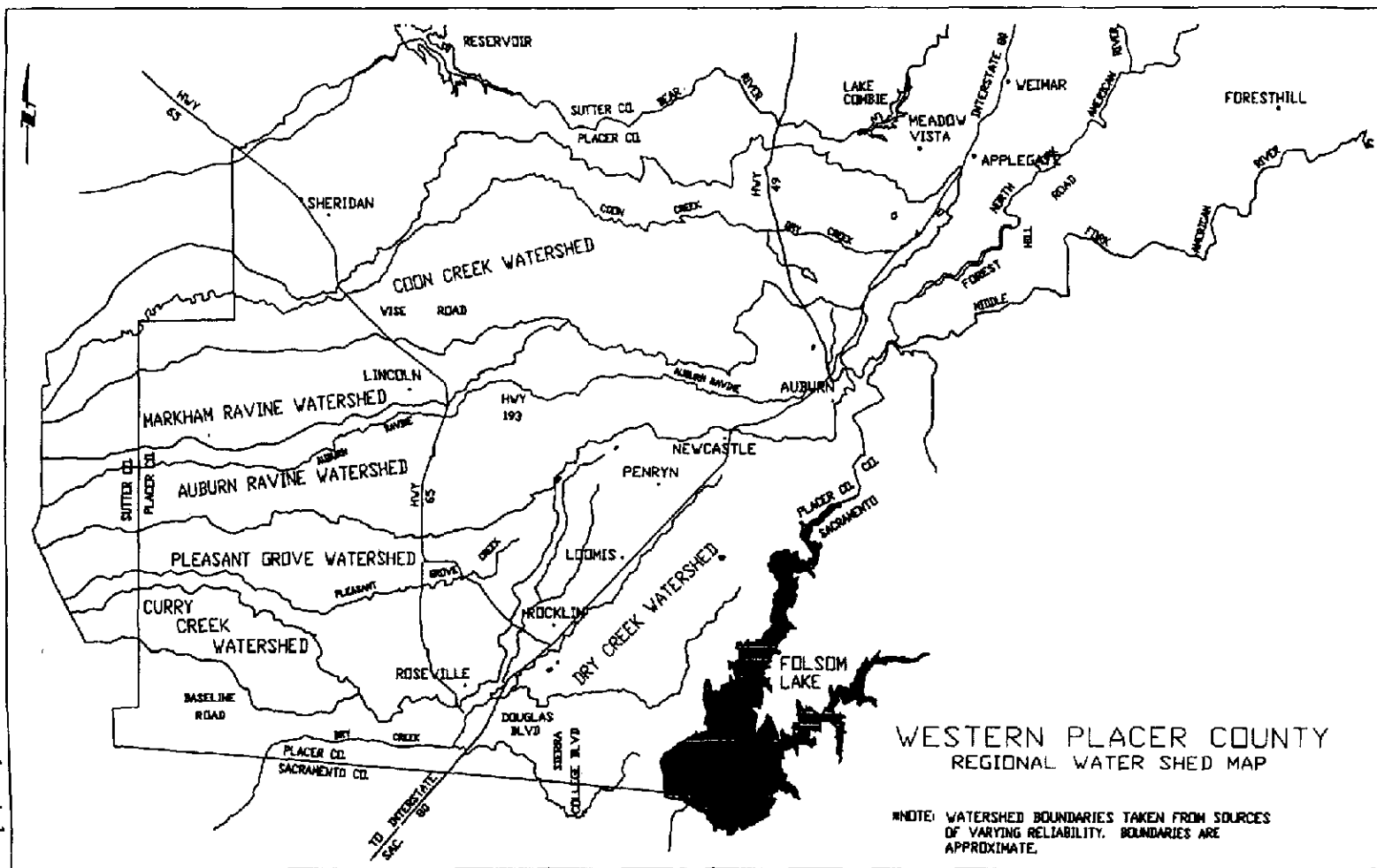
Gloria Courtts

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

ASSISTANT COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

COUNTY OF PLACER



AUBURN RAVINE CRMP COMMITTEE

Les Nicholson - NID
Yuba - Bear River Project
28311 Secret Town Rd.
Colfax, CA 95713

Bill Malinen, Mgr.
City of Lincoln
1390 Fifth Street
Lincoln, CA 95648

Mike Lee
Twelve Bridges
3050 Eight Mile Road
Lincoln, CA 95648

Brad Arnold
So. Sutter Water Dist.
2464 Pacific Ave.
Trowbridge, CA 95659

Banky Curtis
Dept. of Fish and Game
1701 Nimbus Rd., Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Terry Lowell
Lowell & Associates
4505 Granite Dr., Suite 1
Rocklin, CA 95677

Larry Nash
Central Valley Regional Water
3443 Roteier Rd., Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827-3098

Randy Bailey
Bailey Environmental
3050 Meadow Creek Rd.
Lincoln, CA 95648

Walter Fickewirth
PCWA
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

Ron Otto
Ophir Area Property Owners. Assn.
10170 Wise Rd.
Auburn, CA 95603

Mark Fowler
2779 Fruitvale Rd.
Newcastle, CA 95658

Lowell Jarvis
PCWA
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

Rob Potter
PG&E
343 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA 95603

Lee Barret
P.O. Box 3419
Auburn, CA 95604

Ron Ravo
PG&E
343 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA 95603

Einar Maisch
PCWA
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

Katie Palatinus
Adelante High School
350 Atlantic Street
Roseville, CA 95678

Dave Ward
PG&E
343 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA 95603

Dave Breninger
PCWA
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

Harry Hickman
Placer High School
275 Orange Street
Auburn, CA 95603

Walter Boswell
PG&E
343 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA 95603

Paul Ogden, Mgr.
City of Auburn
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603

Tony LaBouff
Placer Co. Counsel's Office
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

Mark Miller
Placer County Public Health Lab
11475 C Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Dennis Huff
Placer Co. Flood Control Dist.
11444 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Nancy Stuart Grisham
Placer Co. Counsel's Office
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

Sue Sindt
NID
P.O. Box 1019
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dick Swenson
Placer Co. Enviro. Health
11454 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Marty Jack, Jr.
Placer Co. Fish & Game Comm.
7437 West Lane
Loomis, CA 95650

Fred Meyer
Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game
1701 Nimbus Rd.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Attachment 2

AUBURN RAVINE CRMP COMMITTEE

Harriet White, Supervisor
Placer County
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

Barbara Van Riper
270 Geraldson Rd.
Newcastle, CA 95658

Susan Rohan
Del Webb California Corp.
198 Cirby Way, Suite 155
Roseville, CA 95678

Marie Sullivan
US Fish and Wildlife
3310 El Camino Ave., Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95821-6340

Mark Batkin
Central Vly. RWQCB
3443 Routier Rd., Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827-3098

Bill Mayer
LSA Assoc.
6721 5 Star Blvd., Suite C
Rocklin, CA 95677

Val Connor
Central Vly. RWQCB
3443 Routier Rd., Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827-3098

Peter Hughes
Natomas Mutual Water Company
2601 West Elkhorn Blvd.
Rio Linda, CA 95673

Mary Ann Hutchinson
WPCARE
300 Fleming Rd.
Lincoln, CA 95648

Don White
Reclamation Dist. 1001
1959 Cornelius Ave.
Rio Oso, CA 95674

Mal Toy
Placer Co. Water Agency
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

Dr. Gordon E. Seck, Rep.
Placer Co. Fish & Game Comm.
270 Chana Dr.
Auburn, CA 95603

Charlotte Lopez-Rojas
Senator Barbara Boxer
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6544
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cheryl Maki
P.O. Box 5544
Auburn, CA 95604

Otis Wollan
P.O. Box 1750
Colfax, CA 95713-1750

Therese Adams
340 Fleming Rd.
Lincoln, CA 95648